

Ballet not so balmy

Facade
Alberta Ballet Company
Jubilee Auditorium
October 16

review by Suzette C. Chan

Six hundred balletomanes braved a bone-chilling blizzard last Tuesday to watch the magnificent Mariane Beausejour outshine other members of the Alberta Ballet Company and its guests in the ABC season opener, *Facade*.

The evening began with an ill-timed but spirited performance of "Passages," an ensemble piece by ABC resident choreographer, Lambros Lambrou. Although bad timing and unconvincing balletomine often annoyed the audience, the technically complex work was carried by the company's ability to project a spirit of discovery and symbiosis between humanity and nature.

Waking the audience from its balmy complacency, ABC principal dancer Mariane Beausejour dazzled as Odile in the "Black Swan" *pas de deux* from *Swan Lake*. Beausejour brings the best elements of her stint at Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Her clean, clockwork-like motions are fascinating to watch and her balances and pointwork are precise. A fine character dancer, Beausejour portrayed the black swan as beguiling rather than evil and introduced subtle camp elements.

Unfortunately, her partner, Scott Harris,

filling in for the injured Fernando Jhones, seemed overwhelmed by Beausejour.

Beausejour showed amazing technical and artistic versatility as War and Death in Lambrou's "L'histoire du Soldat". Fluid, undulating movements emphasized the seductiveness of war and death. Complementing her very well was soloist Allen Barry, who performed extremely well all evening.

Barry and Beausejour also had roles in "Facade," a witless parade of parodies of dances like the tango, the Scottish jig and a shot at Swiss yodelling songs. However, the piece was performed well by the company.

Guest dancers from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet Mark Lanham and Svea Eklof, a former principal dancer with ABC, danced the famous balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* and the eternal showpiece, the *Don Quixote pas de deux*.

The pair had trouble projecting the intensity of the balcony scene, possibly because they did not benefit from the emotional scene-setting of a full production of the ballet. Another reason the performance was not sharp was that neither Eklof nor Manham were adept at adagio. The crucial *Don Quixote* adagio was as weak as the balcony scene.

The Alberta Ballet Company will be premiering *Coppelia* April 16 and 17. ABC's next Edmonton performance is their annual production of *The Nutcracker*, December 26 through 28.



Photo Bill St. John

Saturday night the Villains played to a packed house at Dinwoodie. The crowd was awed by three extended sax and drum solos as the power failed but the band never missed a note. Each time the lights went out the stage was stormed by delighted fans.

Wilcox, continued from page 8

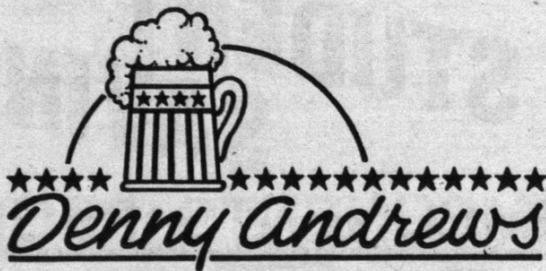
that sometimes I really have a wild party or we go crazy or do something really nuts, but other times I just sit down and watch T.V. and eat cheesies. Sometimes I watch hockey. I don't try to promote any kind of image. Off-stage, I do what I like, just like I do onstage. I'm human.

Q: Your music doesn't ever transcend into the political arena. Do you feel artists like, say, Bruce Springsteen, who deal with social concerns in their music, are a bit pretentious?
Wilcox: I don't find him pretentious at all, but I know what you mean about some people. Not Springsteen for me. Springsteen for me sings about life, and I have nothing but admiration for the man. You can call him "the Boss" anytime, but when you talk about

musicians being political, for me there's no more of a political act than being an artist and making people forget their name, what sex they are, how old they are, what their problems are, what's wrong, what's right, and just get them rocking out. There's no more of a political act than that, because then you destroy all governments and civilizations and planets and universes at once.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say?
Wilcox: Ya, I'd like to thank all you people out there who've been buying my records. Thank you, all of you. I really love my new shoes.

David Wilcox will be performing live at Dinwoodie on Oct. 27.

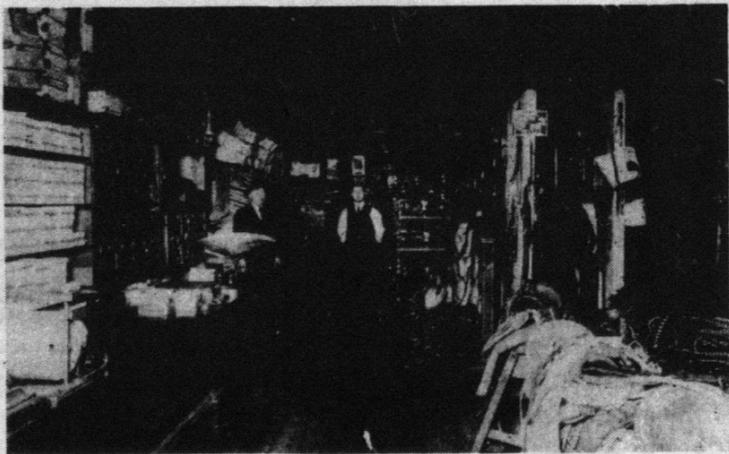


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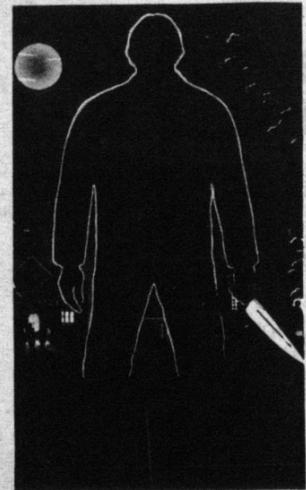
HE CAME HOME FOR HALLOWEEN

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